


MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 9, 1999

TO: Tom Bell, Mohandas Bhat, Frank Hawkins, Ruth Neta, Joe Weiss, and Libby White

FROM: Barrett Fountos 

SUBJECT: Summary of the November 8-10, 1999 International Meeting on Collaborative Chernobyl Thyroid Research Projects

The National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics sponsored the first trinational meeting at the Bethesda Pooks Hill Marriott to discuss progress and problems encountered in the conduct of the Belarus and the Ukraine thyroid studies. The Belarussian delegation was led by Dr. Valery Stezhko and the Ukrainian delegation by Dr. Nikolai Tronko. Please see the attached participant list for other attendees.

The epidemiologic objectives of the thyroid studies are to estimate the risk of thyroid cancer and the risk of other thyroid diseases from exposure to radioactive iodine as a result of the Chernobyl accident. The epidemiologic methods include: obtaining an unbiased sample from the population of each country; obtaining an adequate-sized sample; estimating exposure with minimum error; diagnosing disease with minimum error; and conducting appropriate statistical analysis and interpretation of results.

The factors required for adequate statistical power are: distribution of dose by age at exposure and gender; percent selected by dose; location rate; response rate; loss to follow-up for those screened; dose measurement error model; risk model; relative biological effectiveness (RBE) factor; and expected thyroid cases in the absence of exposure, i.e., background rate of thyroid cancer in the absence of radiation. Note that the background rate will increase simply from conducting the first screening.

It was agreed that increased collaboration would permit researchers to: learn from each other's experiences, e.g., recruitment methods; avoid duplication, e.g., of software development; make studies comparable for comparative analyses; and combine the results of both studies for analysis.

The epidemiologic priorities and targets are to: increase response rates for study subjects; complete initially screened cohort of 10,000 to 12,000 in each country by the end of 2,000; maintain a screened cohort to include at least 50% of the subjects at 10 years; improve data management systems to improve study monitoring and quality control; plan for and conduct prevalence analysis after enrolling complete cohorts; write descriptive manuscript giving design, power, and achievements to date for publication in an international journal; and to improve integration of studies and disciplines.

It was decided that revisions to the protocols will be required soon to scale down to achieve an overall successful investigation.

The meeting was considered very successful and NCI will consider whether to hold this meeting annually.

Attachments

National Cancer Institute
Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics
International Meeting

on

Collaborative Chornobyl Thyroid Research Projects

Bethesda Marriott-Pooks Hill, Bethesda, MD

November 8-10, 1999

PARTICIPANT LIST

Gilbert Beebe, Ph.D.

Head, Chornobyl Research Unit
Division of Cancer Epidemiology
and Genetics
National Cancer Institute
Executive Plaza South, Room 7098
Rockville, MD 20892
Phone: 301-496-5067
Fax: 301-402-5484
E-mail: beebeg@mail.nih.gov

Tetiana Bogdanova, M.D.

Chair of the Pathology Laboratory
Chief of the Project Pathology Group
Research Institute of Endocrinology and
Metabolism
69 Vyshhorodska Str.
252114 Kiev, Ukraine
E-mail: TB@viaduk.net

Andre Bouville, Ph.D.

Chornobyl Research Unit
Division of Cancer Epidemiology and
Genetics
National Cancer Institute
Executive Plaza South, Room 7098
6120 Executive Boulevard
Rockville, MD 20892
Phone: 301-594-7655
Fax: 301-402-5484
E-mail: bouvilla@mail.nih.gov

Alina Brenner, M.D., Ph.D., MPH

Radiation Epidemiology Branch
Division of Cancer Epidemiology
and Genetics
National Cancer Institute
Executive Plaza South, Room 7049
Rockville, MD 20892
Phone: 301-402-8680
Fax: 301-402-0207
E-mail: brennera@mail.nih.gov

Aaron B. Brill, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor of Radiology
Department of Radiology and
Radiological Sciences
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
370 St. Andrews Drive
Franklin, TN 37069
Phone: 615-622-6735
Fax: 615-322-3764
E-mail: brillab@ctrvax.vanderbilt.edu

Dr. Elena Buglova

Clinical Research Institute of Radiation
Medicine and Endocrinology
23, Dolgobrodskaya str.
Minsk, Belarus
Fax: 375-172-64-14-39
E-mail: ebuglova@nsys.by

David Burch

Division of Epidemiology
Columbia School of Public Health
722 West 168th Street, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10032
Phone: 212-305-5404
Fax: 212-305-0885
E-mail: jdb32@columbia.edu

Dr. Larissa I. Danilova

Chief, Division of Endocrinology
Institute of Radiation Medicine of Belarus
23 Makayonka Str.
220023 Minsk, Belarus
Phone: 0172-997-391
Fax: 0172-366-267

Dr. Anna Derevianko

Research Fellow of the Department of
Children's Endocrine Disorders
Chief of the Project Epidemiology Group
Research Institute of Endocrinology and
Metabolism
69 Vyshhorodska Str.
252114 Kiev, Ukraine
E-mail: dccie@dccie.kiev.ua

Dr. Valentina Drozd

Ministry of Public Health, Republican
Dispensary of Radiation Medicine
Makayonka str., 17
220023 Minsk, Belarus

Betsy Duane

Communications Coordinator
Division of Cancer Epidemiology
and Genetics
National Cancer Institute
Executive Plaza South, Room 8098
6120 Executive Boulevard
Rockville, MD 20892
Phone: 301-594-5944
Fax: 301-402-3256
E-mail: duaneb@mail.nih.gov

Dr. Ovsy V. Epshtein

Chair of the Laboratory of the Functional
Diagnostics
Chief of Project Central Laboratory
Research Institute of Endocrinology and
Metabolism
69 Vyshhorodskaya Str.
252114 Kiev, Ukraine
E-mail: dccie@dccie.kiev.ua

Daniel Fink, M.D.

Division of Epidemiology
Columbia School of Public Health
722 West 168th Street, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10032
Phone: 212-305-6487
Fax: 212-305-2445
E-mail: finkdan@cp-am.cis.columbia.edu

Barrett Fountos, M.S.

Health Scientist
Office of International Health Programs
U.S. Department of Energy
199001 Germantown Road
EH-63/270 CC
Germantown, MD 20874
Phone: 301-903-6740
Fax: 301-903-1413
E-mail: barrett.fountos@eh.doe.gov

Joseph Fraumeni, M.D.

Director, Division of Cancer Epidemiology
and Genetics
National Cancer Institute
Executive Plaza South, Room 8070
6120 Executive Boulevard
Rockville, MD 20892
Phone: 301-496-1611
Fax: 301-402-3256
E-mail: fraumenj@mail.nih.gov

Ellen Greenebaum, M.D.
Department of Pathology
Division of Surgical Pathology, VC14-215
College of Physicians and Surgeons
630 West 168th Street
New York, NY 10032
Phone: 212-305-2301
E-mail: eg39@columbia.edu

Patricia Hartge, Sc.D.
Deputy Director, Epidemiology and
Biostatistics Program
Division of Cancer Epidemiology
and Genetics
National Cancer Institute
Executive Plaza South, Room 8090
Rockville, MD 20892
Phone: 301-496-7887
Fax: 301-496-9146
E-mail: hartge@nih.gov

Dr. Daniel Heitjan, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
School of Public Health of
Columbia University
Division of Biostatistics
600 West 168th Street
New York, NY 10032
Phone: 212-305-9557
Fax: 212-305-9408

Sally Hodgson
Division of Epidemiology
Columbia School of Health
722 West 168th Street, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10032
Phone: 212-305-9409
Fax: 212-305-0885
E-mail: sjal@columbia.edu

Robert Hoover, M.D., Sc.D.
Director, Epidemiology and Biostatistics
Program
Division of Cancer Epidemiology
and Genetics
National Cancer Institute
Executive Plaza South, Room 8094
6120 Executive Boulevard
Rockville, MD 20892
Phone: 301-496-3004
Fax: 301-402-8229
E-mail: hooverr@mail.nih.gov

Geoffrey Howe, Ph.D.
Division of Epidemiology
Columbia School of Public Health
722 West 168th Street, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10032
Phone: 212-305-4601
Fax: 212-305-0885
E-mail: chernobyl@columbia.edu

Iryna Kairo, Ph.D.
Leading Research Fellow
Deputy Chief of the Dosimetry Group
Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine
Research Centre for Radiation Medicine
Melnikova, 53
254050 Kiev, Ukraine

Dr. Jacov Kenigsberg
Clinical Research Institute of Radiation
Medicine and Endocrinology
23, Dolgobrodskaya str.
Minsk, Belarus

Richard Klausner, M.D.
Director, National Cancer Institute
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 11A48
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20892
Phone: 301-496-5615
Fax: 301-402-0338

Mr. Olexandr V. Kostin
Chief of the Project Data Coordinating
Center
Research Institute of Endocrinology and
Metabolism
69 Vyshhorodska Str.
252114 Kiev, Ukraine
E-mail: dccie@dccie.kiev.ua

Dr. Nicolaj Krysenko
Lange St., 5
Gomel, Belarus 246000
Phone: (0232) 53-63-44
Fax: (0232)-53-79-72

Charles Land, Ph.D.
Radiation Epidemiology Branch
Division of Cancer Epidemiology
and Genetics
National Cancer Institute
Executive Plaza South, Room 7046
6120 Executive Boulevard
Rockville, MD. 20892
Phone: 301-496-6600
Fax: 301-402-0207
E-mail: landc@mail.nih.gov

Mrs. Nadya Lesnikova
Clinical Research Institute of Radiation
Medicine and Endocrinology
23, Dolgobrodskaya str.
Minsk, Belarus
E-mail: dcc@belamir1.belpak.minsk.by

Jay Lubin, Ph.D.
Division of Cancer Epidemiology
and Genetics
National Cancer Institute
Executive Plaza South, Room 8042
6120 Executive Boulevard
Rockville, MD 20892
Phone: 301-496-3357
Fax: 301-402-0081
E-mail: lubinj@exchange.nih.gov

Nicholas Luckyanov, Ph.D.
Chornobyl Research Unit
Division of Cancer Epidemiology
and Genetics
National Cancer Institute
Executive Plaza South, Room 7096
Rockville, MD 20892
Phone: 301-594-7656
Fax: 301-402-5484
E-mail: luckyann@epndce.nci.gov

Lindsey Marcus
Foreign Affairs Officer
NP/SC, Room 2835
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520
Telephone: 202-736-4429
Fax: 202-647-0937
E-mail: marcusLM@state.gov

Valentin Markov, Ph.D.
Institute Deputy Director
Research Institute of Endocrinology and
Metabolism
69 Vyshhorodska Str.
252114 Kiev, Ukraine
E-mail: dccie@dccie.kiev.ua

Ihor Masnyk, Ph.D.
Chornobyl Research Project Director
Chornobyl Research Unit
Division of Cancer Epidemiology
and Genetics
National Cancer Institute
Executive Plaza South, Room 7102
6120 Executive Boulevard
Rockville, MD 20892
Phone: 301-594-7659
Fax: 301-402-5484
E-mail: masnyki@mail.nih.gov

Robert McConnell, M.D.

Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine
Columbia University
161 Ft. Washington Avenue
New York, NY 10032
Phone: 212-305-5579
Fax: 212-305-6878
E-mail: mcconne@cpme3.cis.columbia.edu

Sharon Miller

Contracting Officer
Research Contracts Acquisition Branch
National Cancer Institute
Executive Plaza South, Room 620C
Rockville, MD 20892
Phone: 301-435-3783
E-mail: millersh@mail.nih.gov

Dr. Viktor Minenko

Ministry of Public Health, Republican
Dispensary of Radiation Medicine
Makayonka str., 17
220023 Minsk, Belarus

Herman Mitchell, Ph.D.

Senior Research Scientist
RHO Federal Systems, Inc.
121 South Estes Drive, Suite 100
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
Phone: 919-932-6500, extn. 223
Fax: 919-933-9866
E-mail: hmitchell@rhoworld.com

Valery Oliynik, M.D.

Chair of the Department of the Endocrine
Disorders
Deputy Project Director or Clinical Issues
Research Institute of Endocrinology and
Metabolism
69 Vyshhorodska Str.
252114 Kiev, Ukraine
Fax: 432-54-57
E-mail: dccie@dccie.kiev.ua

Dr. Vladislav Ostapenko

Ministry of Public Health, Republican
Dispensary of Radiation Medicine
Makayonka str., 17
220023 Minsk, Belarus

Dr. Sergey Petrenko

Ministry of Public Health, Republican
Dispensary of Radiation Medicine
Makayonka str., 17
220023 Minsk, Belarus

Dr. Olga Polyanskaya

Clinical Research Institute of Radiation
Medicine and Endocrinology
23, Dolgobrodskaya str.
Minsk, Belarus
Phone: 017-230-58-50
Fax: 017-230-58-50
E-mail: dcc@belamir1.belpak.minsk.by

Alan Rabson, M.D.

Deputy Director, National Cancer Institute
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 11A48
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20892
Phone: 301-496-1927
Fax: 301-496-0775
E-mail: rabsona@mail.nih.gov

Jacob Robbins, M.D.

Scientist Emeritus, Genetics and
Biochemistry Branch
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive
and Kidney Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 10, Room 6C201A
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20892
Phone: 301-496-5761
Fax: 301-480-0406
E-mail: jacobr@bdg10.niddk.nih.gov

Elaine Ron, Ph.D.

Chief, Radiation Epidemiology Branch
Division of Cancer Epidemiology
and Genetics
National Cancer Institute
Executive Plaza South, Room 7048
6120 Executive Boulevard
Rockville, MD 20892
Phone: 301-496-6600
Fax: 301-402-0207
E-mail: rone@mail.nih.gov

Dr. Valery A. Rzhetsky

Ministry of Public Health, Republican
Dispensary of Radiation Medicine
Makayonka str., 17
220023 Minsk, Belarus
Phone: 017-263-97-71
Fax: 017-264-46-47

Art Schletty

Radiation Studies Branch
Environmental Hazards and Health Effects
Program
National Center for Environmental Health
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
4770 Buford Highway, NE
Mail Stop F28
Chamblee, GA 30341-3724
Phone: 770-488-4436
Fax: 770-488-7310
E-mail: avs1@cdc.gov

Irina Simakovsky

Senior Programmer Analyst
Columbia University
722 West 168th Street, 11th floor
New York, NY 10032

James M. Smith, Ph.D.

Chief, Radiation Studies Branch
Environmental Hazards and Health
Effects Program
National Center for Environmental Health
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
4770 Buford Highway, NE
Mail Stop F35
Chamblee, GA 30341-3724
Phone: 770-488-7040
Fax: 770-488-7044
E-mail: jms5@cdc.gov

Dr. Valentin A. Stezhko

BelAm Thyroid Project Director
Clinical Research Institute of Radiation
Medicine and Endocrinology
23, Dolgobrodskaya str.
Minsk, Belarus
Phone (Fax): 011-375-172-226297
E-mail: dcc@belamir1.belpak.minsk.by

Kathleen Stine, M.B.A.

Program Analyst, Radiation Epidemiology
Branch
Division of Cancer Epidemiology
and Genetics
National Cancer Institute
Executive Plaza South, Room 7104
6120 Executive Boulevard
Rockville, MD 20892
Phone: 301-594-7800
Fax: 301-402-0207
E-mail: stinek@mail.nih.gov

Valeriy P. Tereshchenko, Ph.D.

Vice-Director for the Questions of
Chornobyl Accident and International
Relations
Deputy Project Director on Management
Issues
Research Institute of Endocrinology and
Metabolism
69 Vyshhorodska Str.
254114 Kiev, Ukraine
Phone: 431-03-60
Fax: 432-54-57
E-mail: dccie@dccie.kiev.ua

Terry Thomas, Ph.D.

Chornobyl Research Unit, Radiation
Epidemiology Branch
Division of Cancer Epidemiology
and Genetics
National Cancer Institute
Executive Plaza South, Room 7100
6120 Executive Boulevard
Rockville, MD 20892
Phone: 301-594-7658
Fax: 301-402-5484
E-mail: thomast@mail.nih.gov

Professor Nikolay D. Tronko

Project Director
Director, Research Institute of
Endocrinology and Metabolism
69 Vyshhorodska Str.
252114 Kiev, Ukraine
Phone: 430-86-94

Dr. Olga Tsvetkova

P.O. Box 145
252024 Kiev, Ukraine
Phone (Fax): 380-44-253-1159

Bruce Wachholz, Ph.D.

Chief, Radiation Effects Branch
Division of Cancer Biology
National Cancer Institute
Executive Plaza North, Room 530
6130 Executive Boulevard
Rockville, MD 20892
Phone: 301-496-9326
Fax: 301-496-1224
E-mail: bw36i@nih.gov

Schlomo Yaniv, Ph.D.

Radiation Protection and Health Effects
Branch
Division of Regulatory Application
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555
Phone: 301-415-6239
Fax: 301-415-5385
E-mail: ssy@nrc.gov

Lydia Zablotska, M.D.

Graduate Research Assistant
School of Public Health of
Columbia University
Division of Epidemiology
600 West 168th Street
New York, NY 10032
Phone: 212-
Fax: 212-305-0885

Shelia Zahm, Sc.D.

Deputy Director, Division of Cancer
Epidemiology and Genetics
National Cancer Institute
Executive Plaza South, Room 8074
6120 Executive Boulevard
Rockville, MD 20892
Phone: 301-496-8157
Fax: 301-402-3256
E-mail: zahms@mail.nih.gov

National Cancer Institute
Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics

**International Meeting
on
Collaborative Chornobyl Thyroid Research Projects**

Bethesda Marriott-Pooks Hill, Bethesda, MD
November 8-10, 1999

**PRELIMINARY AGENDA
Monday, November 8**

9:30am - 12:30pm Small Group Discussion on Study Subject Recruitment Strategies **Chair:** Dr. Beebe

(for individuals who received separate notification only)

12:30pm - 5:30pm OPEN PERIOD

5:30pm - 7:30pm Welcome Reception
Lawton Chiles International Center
National Institutes of Health

National Cancer Institute
Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics

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Bethesda Marriott-Pooks Hill, Bethesda, MD
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PRELIMINARY AGENDA
Tuesday, November 9

8:30am *Continental Breakfast*

9:00am - 10:15am

Welcome
Introduction and Objectives
Remarks by NCI Deputy Director
Remarks by the Deputy Minister of Health, Ukraine
Introductory Remarks:
 Project Director from Belarus
 Project Director from Ukraine
Perspective: NCI Intramural Research Program
Perspective: Radiation Epidemiology Branch

Chair: Dr. Fraumeni
Dr. Fraumeni
Dr. Rabson
Dr. Bobylova

Dr. Stezhko
Dr. Tronko
Dr. Hoover
Dr. Ron

10:15am - 10:30am *Coffee Break*

10:30am - 12:30pm

BelAm Thyroid Project Overview
 Brief Summary
 Organization of Project and Relationship
 with NCI
 Progress and Problems Encountered:
 Epidemiology/Screening
 Data Management
 Dosimetry
 Clinical and Laboratory Aspects
 Discussion

Co-Chairs: Dr. Stezhko
Dr. Masnyk

12:30pm - 1:30pm *Lunch*

Simultaneous interpretation will be available for all sessions except the breakout sessions on Wednesday, November 10. Consecutive interpretation will be available for those sessions.

1:30pm - 3:30pm	UkrAm Thyroid Project Overview Brief Summary Organization of Project and Relationship with NCI Progress and Problems Encountered: Epidemiology/Screening Data Management Dosimetry Clinical and Laboratory Aspects Discussion	Co-Chairs: Dr. Tronko Dr. Masnyk
3:30pm - 3:45pm	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
3:45pm - 5:30pm	Study Overview Epidemiology Dosimetry Role of NCI Chornobyl Oversight Panel NCI Perspective on Future of Collaborative Chornobyl Thyroid Research Projects	Chair: Dr. Ron Dr. Howe & Dr. Beebe Dr. Bouville Dr. Zahm Dr. Hoover
5:30pm - 6:30pm	OPEN PERIOD	
6:30pm - 9:00pm	Dinner (by invitation only) Bethesda Marriott-Pooks Hill	

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National Cancer Institute
Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics

International Meeting
on
Collaborative Chornobyl Thyroid Research Projects

Bethesda Marriott-Pooks Hill, Bethesda, MD
November 8-10, 1999

PRELIMINARY AGENDA
Wednesday, November 10

8:30am	<i>Continental Breakfast</i>	
9:00am - 10:00am	Plenary Discussion	Chair: Dr. Zahm
10:00am - 10:15am	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
10:30am - 12:30pm	Breakout Sessions	
	Screening Process and Re-Screening	Chair: Dr. Hartge
	Dosimetry	Chair: Dr. Bouville
	Project Administration and Management	Chair: Dr. Masnyk
12:30pm - 1:30pm	<i>Lunch</i>	
1:30pm - 3:15pm	Summaries from Breakout Sessions	Chair: Dr. Thomas
	Screening Process and Re-Screening	Dr. Hartge
	Dosimetry	Dr. Bouville
	Project Administration and Management	Dr. Masnyk
3:15pm - 3:30pm	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
3:30pm - 4:30pm	General Discussion	Chair: Dr. Beebe
4:30pm - 5:30pm	Summary of the Meeting	Chair: Dr. Zahm

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